

AGENDA ITEM V A

PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

AGENDA ITEM V A

PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting on March 24, 2005, the Board of Regents took the following action:

Conditional approval is granted for the proposed Master of Health Information Management program (CIP Code 51.0706) at Louisiana Tech University, to be implemented beginning Fall 2005, with the following stipulations:

- a. By July 15, 2005, the University shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a program enhancement plan which contains:**
 - i. specific steps to address current faculty needs for educational and scholarly development;**
 - ii. specific steps for program marketing and student recruitment;**
 - iii. specific steps for the hiring of two new faculty (one appropriately credentialed individual to alleviate high undergraduate teaching loads and one appropriately credentialed Ph.D. faculty to teach graduate coursework and to mentor faculty scholarship efforts) by Fall 2006.**
- b. By July 15, 2006, the University shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a progress report addressing full implementation of the above plan.**

Subsequently, on September 23, 2005, the Board of Regents accepted the University's first annual progress report and stipulated that another progress report "addressing full implementation" of the enhancement plan be due on July 15, 2006.

STAFF ANALYSIS

There were four remaining points of the University's enhancement plan to address. These points are listed below, followed by the University's response.

1. **Recommendation One - The University commits the necessary additional resources to hire a Ph.D. level faculty member who will provide a model of scholarly activity for other faculty to emulate and to teach graduate course work.**

University Response: Louisiana Tech has appointed... a new Assistant Professor position in Health Information Management, effective September 2006. [She] holds a Ph.D. in Computational Analysis and Modeling... [and her] research record includes database modeling for healthcare and healthcare informatics. [Her] responsibilities will include graduate teaching, developing and implementing a departmental plan for research and publication, and the mentoring of other HIM faculty.

2. **Recommendation Two - The University develops specific steps to address current faculty needs for educational and scholarly development.**

University Response: Three faculty members in the Department of HIM are currently pursuing doctoral degrees in related fields... which require training in scholarship. Also, these faculty participate in the University's development programs for the enhancement of research and scholarship skills, including summer research grants. Four department faculty have applied for candidacy for fellowship with the American HIM Association. In the candidacy phase, AHIMA pairs the individual with a mentor...The HIM Department retained [a Ph.D. faculty] to provide a workshop for HIM faculty on research, publication, and other scholarly development. [She] is a consultant in the area of healthcare research publication and coding... and holds both the RHIA and CCS credentials.

3. **Recommendation Three - The University hires an appropriately-credentialed individual to alleviate high undergraduate teaching loads.**

University response: An Assistant Professor [was hired in Fall 2004] and has [now] assumed the undergraduate teaching loads of faculty teaching in the Master's program, as appropriate. With [this addition], teaching demands have been reduced so that faculty can engage in appropriate scholarly activities. Faculty submitted a total of five proposals for external funding during the 2005-06 academic year. Three proposals were funded, and one is pending.

4. **Recommendation Four - The Department, College, and University develop and fund a marketing plan to inform a broad range of potential students of the program.**

University response: The marketing plan [on file in the BOR office of Academic Affairs] was implemented in the 2005-06 academic year. The 2005 goal was to recruit 25 students to enroll in Fall 2005. In August 2005, 27 students had applied and been accepted into the program, and 21 enrolled. At the present time, 14 students are enrolled in summer courses. Thirteen students are on schedule to graduate in Spring 2007. [...] The department will continue to measure, analyze, and identify strategies that are successful to recruitment. Most of the strategies identified in the attached plan will continue in the 2006-07 academic year. The resources expended to implement and maintain the marketing efforts are identified in the plan.

STAFF SUMMARY

The University has addressed all remaining concerns. No further progress reports are necessary. The staff recommends that the Committee and Board grant the program full approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee receive the AY 2005-06 Progress Report Relative to the Implementation of the Master of Health Information Management at Louisiana Tech University. As previous conditions of approval have been addressed, no further progress reports are required. The program is hereby granted full approval.